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Money Magazine

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A police car blocks the M1 motorway north of London yesterday, following bomb threats that forced the closure of major highways and the evacuation of parts of Heathrow and Gatwick airports. (AP)

Hope dims for Major on poll eve

LONDON (AP) - With voters going to the polls tomorrow and ominous warnings for Conservative Prime Minister John Major, party leaders yesterday fanned out into key districts that will decide Britain's national election.
The respected business daily, *The Financial Times*, came out for Tony Blair's Labor Party, snubbing the Conservatives, the traditional party of big business, because of divisions over Europe.
The latest Gallup poll, in line with other soundings, put the Conservatives 22 points behind Labor, a record deficit for election week.
Newspapers, quoting unidentified government officials, said Blair, 43, has already drawn up plans to move his young family into the prime minister's official residence. It would be the first time children have lived at 10 Downing St. in nearly 50 years.
At the same time, police closed parts of four main highways in the London area, following
Continued on Page 2

State attorney to represent PM, Hanegbi

By BATSHEVA TSUR and MICHAL YUDELMAN
The State Attorney's Office plans to represent Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi in a series of petitions to the High Court of Justice on the Bar-On Affair.
"The State Attorney's Office stands by its decision - that there is no evidence to prosecute the ministers - and therefore will defend them in court," a source said last night.
"There is no basis to media reports that the prosecution can rid of existing people.
Sharansky, who is demanding, among other things, Hanegbi's removal as justice minister, said yesterday that he would resign if Netanyahu did not accept the changes the committee proposes within one month. However, he said his demand concerning Hanegbi "was not made as an ultimatum."
Hammer and Transportation Minister Yitzhak Levy met Netanyahu yesterday and suggested a number of changes in the cabinet's activity and public image. They asked him about his intentions concerning the cabinet's functioning.
"It would be a mistake to create an atmosphere of crisis. The government can complete its term on condition that the wrong things are fixed," Hammer and Levy said in a statement.
Discussions also began yesterday between Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein and senior staff of the State Attorney's Office on how to present the prosecution's position in court. They are expected to continue all week.
State Attorney Edna Arbel is vacationing abroad and did not attend the meeting. She will return tomorrow.
Among the seven members of Arbel's staff participating in the discussions was her deputy, Yehoshua Reznick. He was one of the three experts who presented a dissenting opinion to the Rubinstein-Arbel report and suggested that Netanyahu and Hanegbi be indicted.
The four petitions presented to the court - by the Movement for Quality Government, Meretz, Labor MKs Yossi Beilin and Yona Yanav, and by Labor MK Ophir Pines - call for indictments against Netanyahu and Hanegbi, in addition to Shas MK Aryeh Deri. They are expected to be heard together.
The court is expected to convene next week, but President Aharon Barak has not yet decided who would sit on the panel nor when the session will be held.
The Movement for Quality Government has requested that its petition be heard separately, saying that it is different from the others because it also requests the removal of Hanegbi from his post and the suspension of Prime Minister's Office Director-General Avigdor Lieberman until the investigation into his actions is completed. The movement also points out that it is apolitical and does not want to be associated with the political petitioners.
Beilin and Yanav also have presented a second petition asking that the text of the minority opinion be published. Pines yesterday wrote to Uzi Fogelman, head of the Justice Ministry's High Court division, asking him to publish the minority opinion.
The State Attorney's Office already has said it will bring the report before the court if requested, but is expected to decide today whether or not to allow the publication earlier.
Jerusalem lawyer Yedid Ron-El and Ami Katz, the principal of a religious school, presented a fifth petition yesterday. They asked the court to order the government to establish a public commission of inquiry into the Bar-On Affair.
The petition asks that Netanyahu and Hanegbi refrain from attending a cabinet session called to set up such a commission.
A petition calling on the government to establish a commission has gathered 50,000-60,000 signatures so far, organizers said.
The NRP Knesset faction intends to meet today to discuss the petition against indicting Shas MK Aryeh Deri. The faction is expected to adopt the attorney-general's report.
Four NRP faction members - Levy, Hanan Porat, Shaul Yabalom, and Avraham Stern - already have announced they would not sign the petition and are calling to adopt the report's conclusions.

IAF pilot with the right stuff

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN
The IAF, victorious on battlefields across the Middle East, has set its sights on a more distant frontier: Space.
Israel's first astronaut will be a veteran jet fighter pilot and the IAF is to foot the bill for his training in the US. He was identified as Col. A., a veteran F-16 pilot who has logged many combat missions and is an electrical engineer, the IDF Spokesman said.
The army stressed that NASA still has to approve before he is to be sent to the US for training. Col. A. has held a variety of both command and operational tasks in the IAF, including weapons research and development, the IDF said. Channel 2 said he is 38 years old and has bailed out at least once in his career.
According to Science Ministry officials, the IAF wants to send an Israeli into space to mark the state's 50th anniversary next May. The astronaut is to fly aboard a US space
Continued on Page 2

Coach boots curfew-breakers before World Cup tie

By ORI LEWIS
National soccer coach Shlomo Scharf yesterday threw five players off his 20-man squad, just 36 hours before the crucial home World Cup qualifier against Cyprus at the National Stadium in Ramat Gan this evening.
The five, four starters and a former captain, left the team hotel in Herzliya and went to a movie without informing Scharf. They failed to return in time for curfew, saying the film had gone on longer than they had expected.
The four starters are dangerous midfielders Haim Revivo, of Spanish first division side Celta Vigo, and Avi Nimni, of Maccabi Tel Aviv, left back Felix Halfon, of Hapoel Tel Aviv, and right back David Amsalem, of league leader Betar Jerusalem.
The fifth, veteran captain Nir Klinger, who holds a record 83 caps, announced his retirement from international soccer following the incident.
Scharf's decision was met with general approval from all quarters, including from Deputy Education Minister Moshe Peled, who said that the move was "a brave decision by the coach, but one which has significant disciplinary and educational implications."
"We should have informed the coach of our movements," Klinger told Channel 1 last night. "This is [a] very severe punishment, particularly for the younger players. As for me, I had already made up my mind to quit."
"It was all just a big misunderstanding, but perhaps our mistake was that we did not inform the coach," Nimni said.
Scharf said the players had let him down.
"I feel betrayed. After having discussed discipline with the team, these players went and broke the
Continued on Page 2

Second-biggest gain for Dow
NEW YORK (Reuters) - The Dow Jones industrial average jumped 179 points yesterday - just shy of setting a record one-day gain - as new data calmed Wall Street's fears that the economy is growing at an inflationary pace.
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Hagit Zavitzky laid to rest

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Hagit Zavitzky, 23, was laid to rest in the small cemetery near Kfar Adumim yesterday afternoon. Zavitzky and her friend Liat Kastiel were murdered in Wadi Kelt on Thursday.

meter along the hilltop to the cemetery. "I called you Hagit because you were born at Purim, you and your twin sister Liat, but why did you leave me at Pessah?" Hagit's mother Tamar cried out.



Hundreds of mourners make their way to the cemetery near Kfar Adumim where Hagit Zavitzky was buried yesterday.

(Brian Horder)

Community copes with newest tragedy

By HERB KEINON

Kfar Adumim buried one of its children yesterday, for the second time in just over six months.

"When tragedies occur one after the other," said Rabbi Reuven Grodner, a resident of the settlement for the last 13 years, "it evokes questions. When something happens more than the statistical average, one has a tendency to look inward."

Hundreds of people attended the funeral of Hagit Zavitzky, killed with Liat Kastiel in Wadi Kelt on Thursday. That she was buried the day after Pessah brought to mind St.-Sgt. Iamar Soudai, also of Kfar Adumim, who was killed last September during the riots at Joseph's Tomb in Nablus.

Looking inward was one of the immediate reactions to the news of Hagit's murder. The community's rabbi spoke on Shabbat of the importance of performing acts of charity and kindness.

"It seems there is a tragedy every holiday," said Shoshana Weinstein, a guide at Yad Vashem who has lived in Kfar Adumim for five years. "Our year is being woven by these terrible losses."

Other reactions in the settlement to news of the murders were strict directives not to walk down into Wadi Kelt, where the two were killed. For those who have never been to Kfar Adumim, this seems the obvious, self-evident, natural conclusion to draw.

The community's losses, sadly enough, don't stop with Soudai and Zavitzky. A number of months prior to the killing of Soudai, another resident of the community, a father in his 40s, dropped dead of a heart attack. Four days earlier, a woman in her 20s was killed in an auto accident.

From a park on the outer rim of the settlement, Wadi Kelt is just a few minutes' walk, slip and slide down a steep hill. The water flowing through the wadi can, on a rainy day, be heard in the community's school. The wadi is to Kfar Adumim what the sea is to Tel Aviv, what the crater is to Mitzpe Ramon. It is an overwhelming physical presence, a pull, an attraction.

Hizbullah threatens to fire Katyushas 'if appropriate'

By DAVID RUDGE

Deputy Hizbullah leader Sheikh Naim Kassem has again warned that the organization will launch Katyusha rocket attacks on Israel if it decides such action is appropriate.

fighting arm, would choose the right form of retaliation to the "occupation and continued attacks on Lebanese civilians."

The organization stressed, however, that it deliberately targeted IDF and South Lebanese Army positions in the barracks last Friday, but not Israeli or Lebanese villages.

"If it is in our interest to retaliate with Katyusha rockets, we will do just that, even on Israeli settlements," he was quoted as saying.

The Grapes of Wrath monitoring group began a hearing yesterday into a complaint by Israel over the Hizbullah shelling on Friday, in which some mortar shells exploded within Israeli territory.

Meanwhile, senior IDF and UNIFIL officers are due to meet in Marjayoun today, following an incident on Sunday in which troops from the international peacekeeping force's Norwegian battalion blocked the path of IDF troops on patrol in the eastern sector of the security zone.

Israel also charged that the firing originated from inside villages north of the security zone, a flagrant breach of the understandings reached at the end of the cross-border fighting a year ago.

The IDF troops eventually pulled back to avoid a confrontation with the UN soldiers, but decided to prevent members of the Norwegian battalion from moving about in areas under IDF control.

The Jerusalem Post

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Yossi Beilin

National Religious Party secretary General Zviulun Orlev... Orlev described the case as "political piracy" and said it is a "public relations strategy for the Labor Party coalition."

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DETAILS AT BRANCH

Work sanctions expected

By DAVID HARRIS and ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Government workers are scheduled to resume sanctions today in an ongoing pay dispute with the Treasury.

Some 10,000 workers at 15 ministries began to disrupt work before Pessah, which reduced services to the public. Thus far the Foreign, Defense, and Labor and Social Affairs ministries have not been affected.

The Treasury and union leaders reached an agreement last summer that added a monthly NIS 205, three-quarters of which became payable in July and the remainder this January, at a cost of some NIS 50 million.

Under the agreement the additional payment was to be changed from a shekel amount to a percentage of the wage from this month. However, the workers' representatives have made new demands, which would add a further NIS 5m., according to Treasury wage director Yossi Kucik.

Both sides have threatened to take the dispute to the National Labor Court if it is not resolved immediately. The sides are expected to meet for talks today.

Meanwhile, the Teachers Union said yesterday that it would disrupt the opening of the 1997/98 school year in September if cuts in the education budget that have reportedly been discussed are implemented.

In a letter to Education Minister Zevulun Hammer, union secretary-

general Avraham Ben-Shabbat said that the reported cuts, which would include the firing of teachers, "would cause irreparable damage to the educational system."

The Secondary School Teachers Association, meanwhile, declared a labor dispute against the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry and the ORT and Amal school systems, over plans to shut down dozens of technical schools, which train youngsters who work part of the week and study at the schools the rest of the week.

The schools are to be closed because of low budgets provided by the Labor Ministry, which oversees and funds them.

Budgets for the Labor Ministry-supported schools are 25 percent lower than at Education Ministry-

supported ones, the association said. But teachers at the schools receive the same salaries as their counterparts at Education Ministry-supported schools, creating budget deficits of tens of millions of shekels.

As a result, the ORT and Amal systems plan to fire hundreds of teachers in some 60 schools, the association said.

Ran Erez, chairman of association's directorate, said "thousands of pupils could be thrown into the streets," and would have difficulty finding suitable educational alternatives.

The closure of the schools would be another blow to technical education in Israel, he added, and suggested transferring the schools to the Education Ministry's aegis.

Swiss banks ask court to drop Holocaust lawsuits

ZURICH (Reuter) - Switzerland's three biggest banks have petitioned a US court to dismiss or delay lawsuits charging them with hoarding unclaimed deposits of Holocaust victims.

Attorneys for the banks, in a letter to Judge Edward Korman of the Eastern District of New York, said the banks have been and are still ready to discuss a settlement.

But some of the parties involved in the suit are no longer willing to delay legal proceedings while talks proceed.

"The letter proposes that because of the novel nature of the complaints, the court should address the defendants' motions to dismiss or stay the cases," the attorneys for the banks said in a summary of a 16-page letter to the court released yesterday.

The class-action lawsuits seek billions of dollars in damages from

Credit Suisse Group, Union Bank of Switzerland and Swiss Bank Corp.

"The banks remain willing to discuss settlement. The banks are committed to resolving these problems in a positive way," the letter said.

"However, it now appears that there is no longer a consensus among the parties to stay these proceedings while discussions take place. Accordingly, it is necessary to address how these cases should proceed."

Claimants, who include Holocaust survivors and their heirs, slave laborers under the Nazis, and the World Council of Orthodox Jewish Communities, allege the banks failed to hand back wealth left by Holocaust victims.

A federal court judge has given the banks until May 15 to respond to the complaints.

Attorneys for the banks argued

that the claims in these cases implicate the interests of government governments and involve events that occurred outside the United States more than 50 years ago.

They noted that the banks and the Swiss government have taken a number of steps to address the allegations, including creating an independent panel to search for unclaimed wealth that may have escaped two previous audits.

The government has also established a commission of historians to probe neutral Switzerland's wartime role as a financial center and has proposed selling part of its official gold reserves to finance a huge humanitarian fund.

Banks and other private businesses have also donated more than SFr 265 million to a memorial fund that will support needy Holocaust victims.



A customs official goes through the suitcase of a returning vacationer yesterday at Ben-Gurion Airport. (Dan Oseendyev/Israel Sun)

Travelers greeted by customs crackdown

Dozens of returning vacationers who tried to pass through the "green" customs line at Ben-Gurion Airport as if they had nothing to declare, walked right into a Customs Authority crackdown to uncover smuggled items.

Customs spokeswoman Idit Lev-Zarhia said that by yesterday evening customs officials had found 10 hidden television sets, three video cameras, four car radio-

tape or compact disk players, 30 liters of alcoholic drinks, 50 cartons of cigarettes, and clothing in what she described as "commercial quantities."

By this morning, when most of those abroad for Pessah are expected to have returned, the number of items will probably be double what they were last night, she predicted.

"The big surprise was the number of people who went through the "red" channel [to declare items]," she said, adding that those who did

so may have noticed the increased activity by customs officials in the green channel, or may have heard rumors that a customs campaign was underway.

Lev-Zarhia said that the campaign began on Monday evening and then continued throughout yesterday.

She noted that in the duty-free shop at the airport, items which are subject to customs fees and left for passengers to pick up when they return are put into boxes with a red

stripe, while duty-free items are put into a box with a green stripe.

However, some passengers take items out of the red-striped boxes and put them in their luggage. As part of the campaign, she said, plainclothes customs officers circulated among passengers to catch such offenders.

In terms of savings on taxes, she said, cigarettes are among the most profitable items to smuggle, followed by alcoholic drinks and cheap clothing from the Far East.

West Bank water pollution at 'dangerous level'

Water pollution in the West Bank "has crossed a red line," according to a report the Institute for Peace Implementation released last night.

Water Commission and Palestinian Water Authority experts told IPI researchers that Israel and the Palestinian Authority both are responsible for the dangerous level of sewage seeping into ground water sources and only a joint effort will prevent a crisis.

Some settlements have not been disposing of their sewage appropriately and the civil administration neglected the sewage infrastructure in the West Bank for decades, according to the report, "Water Pollution in the West Bank: Overcoming Political Stumbling

Blocks to a Solution." However, the PA has not maintained the existing facilities, partially in an attempt to press Israel to make concessions on permanent status issues, it continued.

The Palestinian-Israeli Joint Water Committee is scheduled to discuss these issues at its meeting today.

A joint Israeli-PA effort to purify sewage waste water would solve the problem, according to the report, which Ziv Hellman and Pinhas Inbari wrote. However, issues such as how to allocate the purified water and where to build the treatment plants, which both could effect final status arrangements, are delaying this.

The IPI studies issues involved in implementing permanent status arrangements, as well as economic development and democratization in the region.

Ashdod officials: No wall to suit haredim

Ashdod Municipality officials yesterday denied reports that a local high school would be surrounded by a high wall to avoid offending neighboring haredim.

However, municipality spokesman Avi Hausman confirmed that trees and other vegetation would be planted to separate the school from nearby buildings.

According to the Hebrew press, an agreement had been reached with the haredim to plant the vegetation around the school, in the city's Het neighborhood, but the haredim reneged. Instead, another agreement was reached to build a high wall between the school, which has been operating for 17 years, and the haredi housing project, which was completed three years ago.

The decision to build a separation stemmed from complaints by the haredim that the high school pupils' provocative dress offended them. On Purim, haredim interfered with a party at the school, blaring noise through loudspeakers.

Hausman denied the press reports, and said the original agreement is still in effect.

"The mayor met with the haredim and the principal, and it was decided that no walls would be built, just the trees and other vegetation around a certain part of the school," he said.

Agudat Yisrael city councilor Asher Levy confirmed the plans involved only a "green" separation, adding that when the school put on various outdoor performances, a "curtain" would be constructed to block the stage.

Compromise reached on friendly fire probe

A compromise agreement was reached yesterday in the High Court of Justice, when the parents of fallen soldier Dvir Mor-Haim acceded to a court suggestion that a senior army officer represent them in questioning the IDF about the incident in which their son was killed.

Mor-Haim was killed by friendly fire in May 1993, together with three other soldiers, while on combat duty in Lebanon. His parents, Ruti and Avinoam, petitioned the court to order the IDF to reveal to them the exact circumstances of their son's death.

Yesterday, Justices Aharon Barak, Yitzhak Zamir, and Dalia Dorner proposed that Maj.-Gen. Beuzion Farhi, the outgoing president of the military appeals court, serve as go-between between the family and the IDF. Farhi will receive from the army the details of an internal investigation, and the parents will be able to pose questions to the army via him.

Farhi is on study leave before retiring from active military service. This puts him in the position of satisfying the parents' demand that the person involved not be dependent for his promotion on the IDF and the army's stipulation for an insider.

The compromise was agreed on in court, but Ruti Mor-Haim said later: "This is a forced compromise. There was never a fatal accident in the IDF in which no investigation was carried out, except for the internal investigation in the unit following the battle. She charged that the army had until now "whitewashed the situation," but said she was hopeful it would now get to the truth.

The option remains open for the Mor-Haims to return to the court to request a full-scale Military Police investigation.

Synthetic hormone reduces need for transfusions in preemies

A hormone produced by genetic engineering that allows premature babies to produce by themselves the needed amount of red blood cells instead of undergoing blood transfusions is being used at Bnai Zion Hospital in Haifa, after the successful completion of clinical trials at several Israeli hospitals.

The use of synthetically produced erythropoietin, which in natural form is produced by the kidneys and released into the bloodstream in response to low oxygen levels, has been approved by the Health Ministry.

Preemies born weighing up to 1.5 kilos after a pregnancy of fewer than 32 weeks usually need many blood transfusions during their hospitalization because blood samples must frequently be taken to monitor their condition. But transfusions expose them to infectious diseases and may even endanger their lives.

According to Dr. David Bader, head of the government hospital's neonatal intensive-care unit, the use of the imported synthetic hormone allows the infant to produce all the red blood cells he or she needs, without causing side effects or posing risks.

"A worrisome phenomenon" of more teenage girls and young women smoking and beginning at younger ages has been reported by the IDF Medical Corps, which has just released results of a long-term study of smoking habits among soldiers.

Writing in the just-released issue of *Harefuah*, the journal of

IDF study reveals increase in women smokers

The Israel Medical Association, Chief IDF Medical Officer Dr. Yehoshua Shemer and Dr. Yitzhak Ashkenazi report on a yearly sample of 2,000 men and women soldiers. Between 1980 and 1995, a representative sample of 32,000 were interviewed when mobilized and then again on the day of their discharge about their lifestyle and health habits.

In 1981, 59% of the men said on their discharge that they smoked; in 1994, the figure had gone down to its lowest point, 39%.

In women, the situation was different: Smoking rates fell from 43% in 1981 to 25% in 1991, but then rose to 32% - the highest women's smoking rate since 1987. About 28% of the general adult population smokes.

Two-thirds of the men and half of the women smokers queried

started smoking before 18. More than a quarter of the men and an eighth of the women started smoking before 15, the researchers found.

They were amazed that while the percentage of men starting to smoke during basic training was 7.1%, the percentage of women who took up smoking during their much shorter basic training averaged 7.8%.

Among male smokers, the number of cigarettes smoked daily dropped to 16, but in women, it fell to 11.6 in 1989 and then rose again to 13.1.

The Medical Corps doctors urge increasing anti-smoking information campaigns among high school pupils, especially among girls, and at workplaces of the relatively few teenagers who have dropped out of school and smoke heavily.

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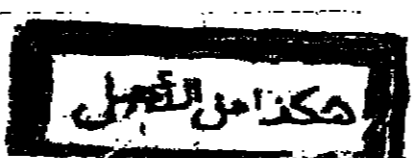
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Buckingham Palace security fails

By MICHAEL WEST

LONDON (AP) - An escaped mental patient who got into the grounds of Buckingham Palace has triggered a new security alert, a call for better royal protection and a high-level police investigation.

Scotland Yard said in a brief statement Monday night that the man was in the grounds of Queen Elizabeth II's London home for only a few minutes at around 7:30 a.m. Monday "before he was escorted from the premises and later arrested."

News reports yesterday differed. The London tabloid *The Sun* said the shaven-headed man climbed a tree by a wall to get in without triggering electronic surveillance equipment and was in the grounds for nearly an hour, undetected by guards.

The Sun, without explaining the source of its information, said the man walked out through the front gates of the palace past police officers on guard there who assumed

he had been in the grounds legitimately and wished him "Good morning." *The Times* said he got into a cab when he left the palace and told the driver what he had done. *The Times* said it was only when the cab driver contacted police that the man was arrested.

Scotland Yard said the intruder did not get into the palace building itself. The queen and her husband Prince Philip were at Windsor Castle west of London at the time.

Commander Peter Clarke, head of Scotland Yard's Royal and Diplomatic Protection Squad, is leading an investigation. Security services throughout Britain are on high alert following a spate of small bomb explosions by the Irish Republican Army combined with false bomb warnings. Police with heavy machine guns are patrolling some London streets. The IRA, fighting British rule in Northern Ireland, seeks to make its presence felt by voters before Britain's national election tomorrow

by snarling the nation's road and rail network.

Scotland Yard did not identify the intruder but *The Sun* identified him as Alastair Coe. On Monday night, he was taken back to the mental hospital unit at St. Leonard's-on-Sea 85 kilometers southeast of central London from which he escaped last week. Scotland Yard said no legal action will be taken against him.

The London newspaper *The Daily Telegraph* called for a review of royal security and said in an editorial: "It is quite absurd that ... the safety of the queen and the royal family should be treated so lackadaisically."

Security was tightened in 1982 after another man with mental problems, Michael Fagan, twice got into the palace. On the second occasion, Fagan climbed a drainpipe into the queen's bedroom and spent 10 minutes sitting on her bed holding a broken ashtray and talking with her before guards arrived.

The worst breach of royal security occurred in 1974 when gunman Ian Ball tried to abduct the queen's daughter Princess Anne as she and her first husband, Mark Phillips, were being chauffeured along the approach road to Buckingham Palace.

Ball forced the limousine to stop and brandished a pistol.

The kidnap bid was thwarted but Anne's bodyguard was shot and wounded. Ball was sent to a mental hospital.

In 1993, anti-nuclear demonstrators scaled the palace walls with ladders and sang on the lawn before being arrested. In 1994, American para-glider James Miller landed on the palace roof as a stunt. In 1995, a man rammed the palace gates in a car.

In other royal security alarms this year, a man accused of stalking Anne was arrested and an intruder broke into the grounds of Kensington Palace in London where Princess Diana has an apartment.

WORLD

in brief

Turks kill 27 Kurdish rebels

DIYARBAKIR (Turkey AP) - Turkish troops killed 27 Kurdish rebels on the mountains of the southeast, regional officials said yesterday.

The operation was launched after the rebels killed five village guards in Mardin province on Monday. The village guards help the troops in their fight against the autonomy-seeking Kurdish rebels.

The army has stepped up its ground and air attacks against the Kurdish insurgents since March.

Five Iranians drown trying to slip into Greece

KUSADASI, Turkey (AP) - The bodies of five Iranians who drowned while trying to sneak into Greece washed ashore near this Turkish resort town yesterday.

Their boat sank Monday within sight of the Greek island of Samos. Kusadasi lies some 80 kilometers south of the Aegean port city of Izmir. Eight Iraqis drowned in March during a similar attempt.

Five children die in Nile boat accident

CAIRO (AP) - Five children drowned when the fishing boat they stole during an outing to celebrate the spring holiday capsized on the Nile, police said yesterday.

The boys, ranging in age from 9-years-old to 12-years-old, drowned Monday during Shem el-Nessim, a national holiday marking the beginning of spring.

The boys found the boat unattended on the shore of the Nile in their village of Abu el-Gheit in Qalubiyya province north of Cairo. They took the boat on the river, where strong currents and winds capsized the vessel.

UK factory explosion leaves one missing

LONDON (AP) - An explosion at a chemical factory yesterday sent up heavy clouds of smoke and seriously injured one person, police said. Firemen and police searched for one missing employee.

Factories, homes and businesses near the Kemast Chemicals Ltd. plant in Bleckley near Milton Keynes, about 80 km northwest of London, were evacuated. The chemicals and their toxicity had not yet been identified, but local residents were advised to keep windows and doors shut.

The Buckinghamshire Fire Brigade said eight fire trucks and more than 40 firemen were fighting a blaze at the plant, which is located in the Mount Farm industrial park.

Afghan religious police on beating spree

KABUL (AP) - The Taliban's religious police publicly beat 10 people in the Afghan capital yesterday for defying strict Islamic edicts.

The Taliban beat five men who had trimmed their beards, a crime in Taliban-run areas. Three women were beaten with electrical wires after they ventured outside wrapped in huge shawls rather than the all-enveloping burqa the Taliban require women to wear. Two taxi drivers also received public beatings after they picked up female passengers unaccompanied by men. According to the Taliban a woman must be accompanied by a male relative.

Saudi Arabia beheads kidnap rapist

DUBAI (Reuters) - Saudi Arabia yesterday beheaded a Saudi man for kidnapping and raping another man in the city of Taif. It was the second beheading in two days and raised to 22 the number of people put to death in the kingdom this year. Another Saudi man was executed Monday for smuggling hashish.

Mexico's Popocatepetl volcano erupts

MEXICO CITY (Reuters) - Mexico's Popocatepetl volcano erupted four times early yesterday morning, throwing up molten material that started fires on grazing pastures on the mountain-side. Authorities alerted people living close to the crater in case of the need to evacuate. The volcano is 65 kilometers from Mexico City.

Romanians eat themselves sick

BUCHAREST (AP) - One person died and hundreds of others received medical treatment after gorging on Orthodox Easter fare, a hospital spokeswoman said yesterday.

"Every year we get people coming to the hospital after they have eaten too much on such occasions," said Mioara Suta, secretary to the director at Bucharest's Emergency Hospital.

She said 250 people had sought medical help at the capital's main hospital over the long holiday weekend, most of them with digestive disorders.

A traditional Easter dinner, which comes after a Lenten fast when meat and dairy products are not eaten, includes up to seven courses. Rich food such as lamb, lamb soup, cabbage rolls stuffed with pork, cheesecake and boiled eggs are on the menu.

One Bucharest resident died Sunday after he choked on a piece of meat during the Easter festivities, the daily *Libertatea* reported yesterday.

Tough Tory scrap seen if Major loses

LONDON (Reuters) - With polls indicating voters will cast Britain's Conservatives into the political desert tomorrow, speculation is now centered on the election after the election - the one for the Conservative party's leadership.

How a party that was deeply and openly divided even in office would react to the reality of opposition after 18 years in power is fascinating political analysis.

Their conclusion - it would not be a pretty sight if Prime Minister John Major resigns quickly and leaves a number of former ministers to fight tooth and nail for the party's ideological soul.

"It would be an extremely bloody affair," said Ivor Crewe, a professor at the University of Essex. "There would be two civil wars going on - between right and left and within these two camps."

Much could depend on the scale of any defeat. Polling expert Peter Kellner predicts the party could win just 210 of the 659 seats at stake, less than two thirds of the number they won in the 1992 election, if opinion polls are right.

Such an electoral earthquake could leave some ministers and possible future candidates, such as Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind, without a parliamentary seat.

Right-wingers such as Defense Secretary Michael Portillo and John Redwood, the former cabinet minister who challenged Major for the leadership in 1995, are expected to press for an early poll. Representing the center of the party would be Deputy Prime Minister Michael Heseltine and possibly Health Secretary Stephen Dorrell. The "left" of the party would look to finance minister and pro-European Kenneth Clarke.

But most of these have powerful enemies. "There are so few unifiers who have broad support," said Norton.

The wild card is Welsh Secretary William Hague. Only 36, Hague has not been in government long enough to make enemies and has been careful to keep equidistant between the pro- and anti-Europeans. Another possible successor, and probably Major's choice, is Chris Patten. He is currently out of the running, having lost his seat at the last election and gone to Hong Kong as the colony's last governor. But his job there ends June 30 and he could theoretically be in parliament in time for any full leadership battle.

If the Conservatives vote in a candidate from the right of the party, a split cannot be ruled out.

"You might get 10 or 20 Conservative MPs, for a mixture of little Englander and personal motives, quitting," said Tom Nossiter, politics lecturer at the London School of Economics.



Indonesia election under way
Two Indonesian boys stand in front of riot policemen during a rally for the Moslem United Development Party in Jakarta yesterday. Tens of thousands of supporters who flocked to the rally were stopped by police. Campaigning for Indonesia's general election began last weekend. The polls are May 29. (Reuters)

Erbakan threatens new elections

By NATICE AYDOGDU

ANKARA (Reuters) - Turkey's Islamist Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan, facing mounting challenges to his authority from the army and others in the secularist establishment, said yesterday he was prepared for new elections at any moment.

"Today at any moment, whoever wants it, we are ready for elections," Erbakan told deputies from his Islam-based Welfare Party.

But he added there was no alternative to his 10-month-old coalition with the conservatives of Deputy Prime Minister Tansu Ciller.

"The current government is the only solution and the only chance for Turkey. There are no alternatives," he said.

Turkey's political leaders were scrambling yesterday to find a new government formula excluding Erbakan, in the midst of a row between the Islamists and the military over religious activism that threatens to topple the government.

Democratic Left Party leader Bulent Ecevit was meeting other opposition leaders for talks on forming an "Islamist-free" government. After meeting Ecevit, main opposition Motherland Party leader Mesut Yilmaz issued a call to all parties excluding Welfare for talks establishing an alternative government.

Ciller, who was Turkey's first



Turkish Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan (left) shakes hands with Chief of Staff Gen. Ismail Hakkı Karadayi yesterday after a meeting in Ankara. (Reuters)

woman prime minister, has so far stood by Erbakan, but his Welfare Party has made clear it was not prepared to go along with some military demands aimed at curbing a rise in Islamist activism since he came to power.

A leading army commander earlier warned the Islamists that the military struggle against the religious revival was vital to the survival of the secular republic.

Erbakan told deputies from his party he believed the armed forces, which have brought down three civilian governments since 1960, would act within the democratic system.

"The army is completely loyal to democracy," Erbakan said. "Let no one make use of the army for their own purposes." Referring to rumors of a fourth military coup, Erbakan, modern Turkey's first Islamist leader, said: "It's all lies, it's all hollow, it's all empty."

Australian Jews want meeting with Kohl

SYDNEY (AP) - The Jewish community in Australia is trying to arrange a meeting with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl during his upcoming visit to discuss compensation for Holocaust survivors.

The president of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, Diane Shteinman, said yesterday that a fund created by the German government in 1993 had gone a long way to help.

Shteinman said, however, strict criteria attached to the fund made life difficult for thousands of Australian survivors who want to claim compensation. Shteinman is also a director of

the Claims Conference.

Eighteen thousand Jewish survivors emigrated to Australia, but that number increased with the arrival of Jews from Hungary, the former Czechoslovakia and the former Soviet Union.

Shteinman said only people who spent at least six months in a "registered concentration camp" were eligible for the initial payment of 5,000 marks (NIS 10,000) and monthly pensions. This excluded those who spent the war years in forced labor camps or in hiding. "How do you come up with documents proving this?" she said.

US presses Zaire leaders to talk

KINSHASA (AP) - As rebels reportedly seized another key city, the United States yesterday urged President Mobutu Sese Seko and rebel chief Laurent Kabila to meet "without delay" and negotiate an end to their standoff.

The United States' UN ambassador, Bill Richardson, said he delivered a "strong message" to Mobutu when they met in private for an hour at Mobutu's hilltop palace in the Zairean capital.

Richardson planned to fly directly to rebel-held Lubumbashi for a meeting late yesterday with Kabila.

"There can be no military solution to this crisis. President Mobutu and rebel leader Kabila must meet face-to-face without delay," Richardson told reporters.

"President Mobutu assured me he is ready to meet Mr. Kabila immediately."

In South Africa, the Department of Foreign Affairs said the two sides had decided upon a meeting site and were trying to decide on a date. It was not clear if they had accepted a South African offer to use one of its naval ships as the venue.

Mobutu appeared briefly with Richardson on the veranda of his residence and shook the US envoy's hand but made no statement. *The*

Washington Post quoted unidentified diplomatic sources yesterday as saying Richardson had been directed by President Bill Clinton to try to persuade Mobutu to step down and to use his recent battle with prostate cancer as an excuse for leaving office. Mobutu spent several months undergoing treatment in Europe earlier this year.

Richardson refused to go into detail about his conversation with Mobutu, saying only: "We were both very frank. I carried a strong message."



Bill Richardson (Reuters)

The Jerusalem Post
Court lawsuits
The claims in these cases impinge on the interests of sovereignty...
However, the PA has not made...
Joint Water Committee...
Compromise reached on friendly fire probe
By BAT SHEVA TSUR and...
The army is completely loyal to democracy...
The current government is the only solution...
The Jewish community in Australia is trying to arrange a meeting...
Eighteen thousand Jewish survivors emigrated to Australia...
The United States' UN ambassador, Bill Richardson, said he delivered a "strong message" to Mobutu...

book department

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BUSINESS

in brief

Property tax reform plan to be submitted today

The Gabbai committee on reforming property tax is expected this morning to recommend its abolition and replacement by a 2.5 percent business sales tax. The committee's proposals will be formally handed over to deputy finance minister David Magen during a press conference at the Treasury. The change would mean the replacement of the annual tax with a tax for purchasing business property. The Income Tax Commission is expected to object to the abolition, as property tax brings hundreds of millions of shekels into the Treasury each year. *David Harris*

Company fined for illegal software usage

A company which supplies computer services for the Supreme Court has been fined NIS 60,000 for its "illegal use" of Microsoft software. The Igud Haya'al company was taken to the Tel Aviv District Court by the software giant, and the fine was set as a result of a compromise between the two sides.

A Microsoft-Israel lawyer, Ma'ayan Bar, asked the court for restraining orders and a search and seizure warrant. It was then able to have documents and other evidence removed to support Microsoft's case that the company had used pirated software. According to Microsoft, illegal copying of programs is still very common in Israel, with three out of four programs pirated. This is a very high rate, compared to 27 percent in the US, 49% in Western Europe and 86% in Eastern Europe. The company added that many firms seem unaware of the fact that they may not allow multiple users to use software without paying for it. *Judy Siegel*

Industrialists seek visit to Malaysia

The Manufacturers Association has formally requested that the Malaysian government allow a delegation of Israeli businessmen to visit the country. Trade has continued with the Muslim country in recent years via third countries, but recently there have been signs that Kuala Lumpur is preparing for direct business ties. The association said there is room for considerable activity, particularly in agriculture, electronics, water, communications and medical supplies. *David Harris*

Chief China planner arrives today

Chinese State Planning Commission chairman Chen Jinhua is expected to arrive here today for an official eight-day visit. The commission has no equivalent here and is defined by Beijing as a super-ministry, combining some of the functions of Israel's Treasury and National Infrastructure Ministry. The commission oversees major development projects, economic reforms and decentralization. Accompanied by seven other officials, he will meet Finance Minister Dan Meridor and visit the Dead Sea Works, ECI Telecom, Elscint and several other high-profile companies. *David Harris*

Daily Beersheba - TA rail line starts tomorrow

After a delay of several weeks, a daily Beersheba - Tel Aviv railroad service will begin operating tomorrow. The journey to Tel Aviv will depart Beersheba at 7:09 a.m., with the return setting off at 6:02 p.m. In addition, an existing service on Sundays and Thursdays, targeting students and soldiers, will continue to run. *David Harris*

Israel to participate in desert fighting forum

Israel will be participating in the Asian anti-desertification conference being held in Beijing from May 15-18. Agriculture Ministry spokesman Naphtali Yaniv confirmed yesterday. Israel's attendance was in considerable doubt following objections from several nations, lead by Arab states. Now Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan, who will head the delegation, is calling on those taking part not to use the conference as an opportunity to attack Israel.

Israel is one of the world's leading authorities on the issue. Hosts China, together with others such as India, are keen for it to play a leading role at the event. *David Harris*

Trade Ministry D-G: Gov't must debate NIS1b. cut

By DAVID HARRIS

The government must stage an all-embracing debate on Israel's macroeconomy before the Finance Ministry formally proposes a NIS 1 billion cut in public spending, new Industry and Trade Ministry director-general Dov Mishor told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday. While the debate on the growing budget deficit has been temporarily put on ice, for reasons that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's economics adviser Moshe Leon refused to discuss, Mishor has taken the opportunity to request such a debate after this month's various economic indicators are published. This would be repeated after every four months.

Mishor said the fact that he and Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sbaransky were not included in the recent top-level talks on the budget deficit is not an issue. "I am just saying that with all due respect, this is not the right sequence of events." It has become apparent in recent days that Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel may not take part in any further negotiations on a budget cut. At each of the three recent meetings he attended with Netanyahu and Finance Minister Dan Meridor, he made it clear he will not be party to any economic package in which he reduces the central bank's key lending rate simultaneously to a budget cut.

It is now felt that his involvement in further discussions is unnecessary, and Meridor will have to make a one-sided attack on the deficit. "He is always invited to such debates, though," Leon said yesterday. Having failed to obtain Frenkel's agreement to an interest rate cut, Meridor told the governor and prime minister he would have to use whatever means available to bring the deficit back in line with the government-set target of 2.8 percent of gross domestic product. Current Treasury estimates suggest, on the basis of the first quarter, the deficit will reach 3.3% of GDP by the year's end. However, some economists are talking of the eventual 1997 deficit totalling 3.5% of GDP.

One of Mishor's major concerns is that a cut in the state budget, or any other key decision that may be made, must take into account other economic factors, particularly the current rise in unemployment. "There are already indications there could be another jump in unemployment toward the end of the year," he said. "Professional officers from all the relevant ministries must prepare papers for a ministerial debate, and only after the subsequent debate should it be decided which steps must be taken."

7 digits for Cellcom phone numbers

By JUDY SIEGEL

Two years after its entry into the cellular phone market, Cellcom's dialing numbers will expand to seven digits starting tomorrow, deputy president for marketing Oren Most said yesterday. However, callers won't feel the change unless they're calling from one Cellcom device to another. Until now, Cellcom users calling another subscriber dialed only the recipient party's six-digit number; from tomorrow they will dial a seven-digit number beginning with the digit 2. For other calls, one dialed 052-xxxxxx to call a Cellcom subscriber; as of tomorrow, the prefix is shortened to 05, followed by xxxxxx. Theoretically, there are 999,999 six-digit numbers available, but since none can begin with a 0 or 1, only 777,777 numbers were available. Since Cellcom has already subscribed a total of 650,000 customers, it had to expand to seven digits.

Besides expanding the capacity, the new system will allow Cellcom to vary and expand its intelligent network services, Most added. Over the next two weeks, either the six- or seven-digit numbers may be used; after that, those using the six-digit number will hear a recorded message explaining the change.

Meanwhile, Cellcom competitor Pelephone - which claims to have 675,000 subscribers - has not yet announced a changeover to seven digits. This may be more complicated, as its dialing code is 050, and numbers may not start with 0.

Greece vetoes EU aid for Turkey

By JEREMY GAUNT

LUXEMBOURG (Reuters) - Greece maintained its long-standing veto on a European Union aid package to Turkey yesterday, dashing hopes in other EU states that Athens had had a change of heart.

EU ministers, however, were still planning to meet Turkish Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller and hold talks that have been put off since 1995.

Greek Foreign Minister Theodoros Pangalos said his country would participate in the meeting, but it could not agree to unblock aid worth 375 million euros (\$424 million) until Turkey stopped threatening Greek sovereignty in the Aegean. He said Turkey has to "withdraw the threat of war" over Greek plans to extend its maritime borders and must turn to international law to solve disputes in the region. Greece and Turkey nearly came to war over a deserted islet in the Aegean Sea last year.

EU officials had earlier expressed hope that Greece was about to change its mind about the aid, which has been blocked since 1996.

The aid package had been promised to Ankara to help it meet the increased competition posed by the customs union, which entered into force with the EU in January 1996. Without the aid, Turkey says it has felt little benefit from the deal. EU-Turkish ties were strained further earlier this year when mainly Christian Democratic politicians ruled out future Turkish membership of the EU because of cultural differences.

The bloc's foreign ministers later patched up the row by saying Turkey had a future in Europe.



Demonstrators protest privatization of Brazilian mining company

A man draped in a Brazilian flag urges protesters to stop throwing rocks and bottles at riot police outside the bourse in Rio de Janeiro yesterday during the auction of mining giant Companhia do Vale do Rio Doce (CVRD). The auction is Latin America's largest ever privatization. CVRD's Carajas mine, located deep in the Amazon rain forest, holds the world's largest iron ore deposit and considerable amounts of copper, gold, and manganese. Dozens were injured during the clashes. *(Reuters)*

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Leumi to launch European road show

By ORNA RAVIV

Bank Leumi CEO Eitan Raff, general manager Galia Maor, MI Holdings general manager Meir Jacobson and a group of their aides will embark next week on a road show for the planned issue of Bank Leumi shares to European institutions.

According to the plan, MI Holdings - the state company which administers the sale of government shares in the banks - will

issue 10 percent of the bank's shares for immediate and deferred raising of capital through some \$240 million of options.

The shares will ultimately be registered for trading on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange. The issue is planned to take place in the last week of May.

MI Holdings estimates it is feasible to raise 75% of the planned issue proceeds through European investors.

If these estimates are realized, MI would consider expanding the issue to 15% of the bank's shares, which would hopefully translate into \$360m. in raised capital. *Globes*

Elbit, Dutch Army in \$28 million artillery deal

By STEVE RODAN

Elbit Systems Ltd. has signed a \$28 million contract to supply its artillery command and control systems to the Royal Netherlands Army, company executives said yesterday.

The contract was signed with Alcatel Telecom Nederland to supply Elbit's system for the Dutch army's VUJST-I project.

The contract will be executed over the next three years and marks the first sale of such a system to a NATO country.

Executives said Elbit, as the main subcontractor to Alcatel and a world leader in artillery command and control systems, will provide equipment supporting artillery guns and MLRS multiple launch rockets, as well as simulators.

Elbit will also supply software, as well as integration to equipment, such as radios and radars, already in use in the Dutch military.

The contract is a follow-on order to a \$3.5m. pilot project carried out by Alcatel and Elbit since 1992.

The pilot was chosen after an international competition.

The contract "signifies an important milestone" for Elbit Systems, as it reinforces cooperation with the Dutch military and industry, company president and CEO Joseph Ackerman said.

Elbit Systems anticipates that the program will enhance prospective ground and artillery command and control systems sales to additional NATO countries and other customers, he said.

London dealers: No repeat of '92 election buzz

By JENNIFER SCOTT

LONDON (Reuters) - Financial houses in the City of London plan to provide only skeleton cover in the early hours of Friday as the results of the British election roll in, analysts said yesterday.

The camp beds, take-away pizzas and adrenaline that pumped through London's stock, bond and foreign exchange dealing rooms in the last two elections will be notably absent, said traders, as most city folk opt to stay home.

"Most people will be at home watching the results come in on TV," according to John Shepperd, the chief economist at Yamaichi International. "In market terms, it's a bit of a non-event."

Opinion polls which showed the Labor and Conservative parties neck-in-neck in the 1992 election had trading rooms braced for a busy night. A surprise victory for the Conservatives sent markets into a spin.

But this time round, gilts traders are more likely to be huddled up in bed than around their trading screens, although most do plan to

make an early start on Friday.

"There is the potential for some enormous last-minute surprises this time, but given the consistency of the polls, no one is expecting any stunners on the night," Shepperd said. "People will be happy to go to bed and assess things in the morning."

Opinion polls have unfailingly predicted a win for the opposition Labor Party tomorrow.

Ian Amstad, senior economist at Bankers Trust here, said he was anticipating little overnight demand from clients for gilts.

"There won't be many people spinning the dice on this outcome," he said. "There may be an element of buy on the rumor, sell on the fact, so there may be some profit-taking in sterling assets... but we're not expecting any violent shenanigans."

Richard Hill, head of foreign exchange at Bank of America in London, said he did not expect the kind of hectic trading the market experienced in 1992.

"That's really only going to occur if it looks like a repeat," he said, referring to the Conservatives' unexpected victory.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Table with 4 columns: Currency (US Dollar, Pound Sterling, German Mark, Swiss Franc, Yen), 3 MONTHS, 6 MONTHS, 12 MONTHS rates.

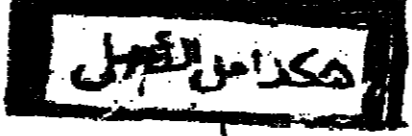
Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (29.4.97)

Table with columns: CURRENCY BASKET (Buy/Sell), BANKNOTES (Buy/Sell), REP. RATES* (Buy/Sell) for various currencies including US Dollar, German Mark, French Franc, Japanese Yen, Dutch Guilder, Swiss Franc, Australian Dollar, S. African Rand, Danish Krone, Finnish Mark, Canadian Dollar, Austrian Dollar, Belgian Franc, Austrian Schilling, Italian Lira, Jordanian Dinar, Egyptian Pound, Irish Punt, Spanish Peseta.

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel. SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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Wednesday, April 30, 1997
Highlights for Cellcom phone numbers
By JUDY SIEGEL
... unless they're calling from a phone device to another. Cellcom users calling another six-digit number, from a payphone, will dial a seven-digit number, beginning with the digit 0. Other calls, one started 002, beginning with a 0 or 1, are also seven-digit numbers. Cellcom has already announced that it will add a total of 650,000 customer numbers to its network over the next seven days. ... expanding the capacity of its system will allow Cellcom to add more numbers to its network. ...

ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

Table with columns: Company Name, Last Price, Change. Includes companies like RPA, Cellcom, and others.

MISHTANIM LEADING 100 TRADING ISSUES

Table with columns: Company Name, Last Price, Change. Lists top trading issues in the Mishtanim index.

INTERNATIONAL SHARES

Table with columns: Company Name, Last Price, Change. Lists international shares.

NEW YORK

Large table with columns: Company Name, Last Price, Change. Lists various US and international companies.

Table with columns: Company Name, Last Price, Change. Lists various international companies.

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TASE ROUNDUP Shares slide slightly in wait-and-see market

Mishtanim 251.52 ▼ 0.23% Maof 261.89 ▼ 0.18%

Shares closed slightly lower yesterday in mixed and dull trading yesterday, which traders said reflected a market mired in a mood of uncertainty. The benchmark Mishtanim index of the top 100 shares fell 0.23 percent, or 0.58 points, to 251.52 on all-share turnover of NIS 91 million against NIS 91 m. on Thursday, the last day of trading. The Maof 25 blue-chip index closed 0.18% lower at 261.89. "The market was mixed and selective as investors wait to see where the economy is going," said Amir Eyal of Epsilon Securities. "It is not clear what will happen with inflation and if the economy is slowing down. There are many contradicting indicators, and we need more information."

Table with columns: Index Name, Last Price, Change. Lists various market indices.

Yigal Mizrahi, chief analyst at Nesham Trading and Investments, said that "investors are sitting on the fence waiting for further developments on the political and economic front." He said the government is "busy with its problems" and has no time to deal with the economy. "The fact

that the market remained at the same level, despite all the uncertainty, shows that the trend is still positive," Mizrahi said. Traders said investors remained indifferent to the Bank of Israel's decision on Thursday to leave its key lending rate unchanged at 13.9% in May. "The market did not expect a rate cut and the central bank's decision had no impact on trading," Eyal said. Electra Consumer Products fell 0.25% to 1.955 agrot. Sahar Securities and Investments maintained its hold recommendation for Electra, saying the air conditioner maker will recover slowly from a weak 1996 fourth quarter. The most active shares were Teva Pharmaceutical Industries, which fell 2.25% to 16,786 agrot on volume of NIS 9.6m; Israel Discount Bank, which dropped 1.25% to 343 agrot on volume of NIS 6.8m; and Koor Industries, which slid 2.75% to 28,992 agrot on volume of NIS 5.4m. (Reuter)

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP Euro stocks end sharply higher after US data LONDON (Reuter) - European stocks roared ahead to close with big gains yesterday, lifted by US economic data which showed reduced inflationary pressures and helped calm interest rate worries. Frankfurt and Paris climbed by two percent shortly after US figures were released giving welcome figures on employment costs and durable goods. London was boosted by 1%. Wall Street itself rapidly climbed 1.6% on the back of a powerful rally in the bond market after Washington reported the favorable statistics. The sudden surge acti-

broader stock measures kept pace with the blue-chip sector's gains. The rally put the Dow within striking distance of 7,000 for the first time since the start of a nearly 700-point retreat from its March 11 high of 7,085.16. The Dow has now recovered more than 500 points of that one-month slide, which was spurred by inflation and interest rate worries.

WHERE TO GO Notices in this feature are charged at NIS 28.08 per line, including VAT. Insertion every day of the month costs NIS 520.65 per line, including VAT, per month. JERUSALEM Condo Tours HEVRA UNIVERSITY. Tours of the Mount Scopus campus, in English, daily Sun-Thur, 11 a.m. from Bnei Zion Convention Center, Sherman Administration Bldg, Buses 4a, 8, 23, 26, 28. For info, call 5882819. HADASSAH. Visit the Hadassah installations, Chagall Windows. Tel. 02-6416333, 02-6776271. TEL AVIV Tel Aviv shares data supplied by Pacific Mediterranean Investments, Tel. 09-958-5873. All other data supplied by Comstock Trading Ltd., Tel. 02-624-4963. Due to technical failures data may be inaccurate. The Jerusalem Post will not be held responsible for any consequences of any transaction made on the basis of these data. Readers who wish to report missing or misquoted data should do so on postcards only, addressed to Jerusalem Post Business Desk, P.O.B. 81, Jerusalem 91000

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES Jerusalem: Superpharm, Gilo Commercial Center, 676-1873; Beisam, Salah e-Din, 627-2315; Shuaat, Shuaat Road, 581-0108; Dar Aidawa, Herod's Gate, 628-2068. Tel Aviv: Chai Pharm Gan Ha'ir, 71 bn Givrol, 527-5317; Kupat Holim Maacabi, 7 Ha-Shit, 546-5558. Tel 3 a.m. Thursday; Pharma Daf Jabotinsky, 125 bn Givrol, 546-2040. Tel midnight: Superpharm Ramat Aviv, 40 Eilatim, 641-3750; London Ministora Superpharm, 4 Shaul Hamelech, 696-0115. Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: Kupat Ramat Maacabi, 49 Haheyil, Ra'anana, 740-7730. Netanya: Trufa, 2 Herzl, 882-8658. Haifa: Balfour, 1 Massada, 862-2288. Krayot area: Hyperpharm Afa, 53 Haratzmait, Krayat Afa, 845-8141. Herzliya: Chai Pharm, Beit Merzazim, 8 Meisak (ex. Shomer Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 955-8472, 955-8407. Open 9 a.m. to midnight. Upper Nazareth: Chai Pharm, Levanon, 657-0468. Open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

DUTY HOSPITALS Jerusalem: Hadassah Ein Kerem (Internal, surgery, obstetrics, ophthalmology, ENT); Hadassah Mt. Scopus (orthopedics); Shazar Zedek (pediatrics). Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatric Hospital (Pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (Pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (Pediatrics). Netanya: Laniado. POLICE 100 FIRE 102

INVESTMENTS P A C M E D

CRITIC'S CHOICE

CIRCUS

HELEN KAYE

The Moscow Circus with Oleg the Clown, animal acts and derring-do on the trapeze begins a four-day run at the Haifa Sports Stadium with shows at 10 a.m., 4 and 7 p.m., (10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Friday).

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AIZENSTADT

For the first time in Israel, Bellini's masterpiece Norma comes to the stage as Israeli-born maestro Pinchas Steinberg leads the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra in a concert performance of this poignant and fiery love affair which concludes in double suicide. Soprano Alessandra Marc sings the Druid priestess who followed her heart and betrayed her own people by bearing two children to the Roman procurator Pollione (tenor Alberto Cupido). The deed is revealed only when Pollione begins to favor another Druid priestess, Adalgisa (mezzosoprano Barbara Dever) before returning to his first love as they mount the burning pyre in tandem. Tomorrow and Saturday at the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv, next Tuesday and Thursday at the Haifa Auditorium (8:30 p.m. except Saturday at 9 p.m.), with further performances May 13 in Haifa, May 15 and 18 in Tel Aviv and May 21 in Jerusalem.



Pinchas Steinberg conducts the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra.

TELEVISION

ELANA CHIPMAN

On Channel 33, tonight at 9:15, we will have the pleasure of seeing John Lennon, a film by and about him and Yoko Ono. The movie was filmed in their estate in England in 1971 and includes clips from the album Imagine, undoubtedly Lennon's greatest album after the Beatles.

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

★★★ 1/2 THE PEOPLE VS. LARRY FLYNT - Woody Harrelson stars in Miloš Forman's film about the life, loves and legal hassles of the publisher of Hustler, one of the first

really raunchy porn magazines in America. Instead of the grim circus lesson one might expect from this summary, the movie turns out to be a terrifically energetic character study - reminiscent at times of one Norman Mailer's semidocumentary pop-cultural novels - and a passionate ode to American entrepreneurial brassiness, to American bad taste, if you will. Seediness and stupidity, it turns out, are both protected by the Bill of Rights, and Forman seems drawn as much to the sordid side of red-white-and-blue capitalism as he is the enduring legacy of the laws set down by the founding fathers. As Larry's wife, Althea, rock-star Courtney Love is terrifically raw; she gives the rare, unfiltered sort of performance that doesn't feel acted at all. Also with Edward Norton and a series of cameo plays against type by James Carville, Donna Hanover, and the real-life Larry Flynt. (English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Children under 17 not admitted without an adult.)

★★★ PRISONER OF THE MOUNTAINS - Based on a Tolstoy novella about the kidnap of two Russian soldiers by a tribe of "stinking" Tatars, Sergei Bidrov's film feels haunted. The movie is set in the present, but takes place against the same backdrop Tolstoy described some 150 years ago: war-torn Chechnya. While Bidrov sticks quite closely to the outline of the novella, his movie leaves us, almost inevitably, with a darker feeling. A nominee for this year's best foreign-film Oscar, the tale is told simply, from the point of an eager if bumbling young recruit (played by the director's son), sent with the army into the war zone. Also with Oleg (Burnt by the Sun) Menshikov. (Russian dialogue, Hebrew and English subtitles. Not recommended for children.)

TV

CHANNEL 1

6:30 News flash
6:31 News in Arabic
6:45 Exercise Time
7:00 Good Morning Israel
...
19:35 Grace Under Fire
19:40 Soldier's Diary
20:30 Challenges
21:10 Spenser for Hire
...
23:15 Hart to Hart

CHANNEL 2

15:00 Anne of Green Gables
15:58 A New Evening
17:35 News in English
17:50 Soccer: Israel vs. Bulgaria
...
23:00 News
00:00 Verse of the Day

CHANNEL 3

6:15 Today's Programs
6:30 Johnny Quest
6:50 This Morning - with Gabi Gatt and Rivka Michaeli
9:00 This Morning
...
14:30 Tic Tac - quiz show

CHANNEL 4

15:30 All Together Now
16:00 Homeland
16:30 Pillar of Fire
17:20 Paths Here and There
...
19:00 On War and Peace
19:10 Vis à Vis
...
23:00 News

CHANNEL 5

7:00 Good Evening with Guy Pinis (pt)
7:30 Love Story with Yossi Sivy (pt)
8:00 Dallas (pt)
8:00 One Life to Live
...
17:30 Good Evening

CHANNEL 6

14:00 Holy Koran
14:05 The Muppet Show
14:30 Adventures on the Rainbow Pond
...
17:30 Good Evening

CHANNEL 7

14:00 Holy Koran
14:05 The Muppet Show
14:30 Adventures on the Rainbow Pond
...
17:30 Good Evening

CHANNEL 8

6:00 Open University (pt)
6:30 Nature on Track, part 5 (pt)
6:35 Beyond 2000 (pt)
6:40 Future Quest, part 3: Globetrot (pt)
...
10:30 Greek - modern opera based on Oedipus and the Sphinx

PRIME TIME TV

Table with 8 columns representing TV channels and rows for various time slots (19:30, 20:00, 20:30, 21:00, 21:30, 22:00, 22:30, 23:00) showing program titles.

CABLE

ITV 3 (33)

18:00 Power Rangers
18:20 Animal Detectives
17:00 Are You Being Served?
...
23:00 News

ETV 2 (23)

15:30 All Together Now
16:00 Homeland
16:30 Pillar of Fire
...
19:00 On War and Peace

FAMILY CHANNEL (3)

7:00 Good Evening with Guy Pinis (pt)
7:30 Love Story with Yossi Sivy (pt)
8:00 Dallas (pt)
...
17:30 Good Evening

SECOND SHOWING (6)

22:00 Quartet (1991) - a complicated triangle between a young woman with a husband in jail and a married couple.
...
17:30 Good Evening

SUPER CHANNEL

6:00 Executive Lives
6:30 VIP
7:00 The Ticket
...
17:30 Good Evening

EUROSPORT

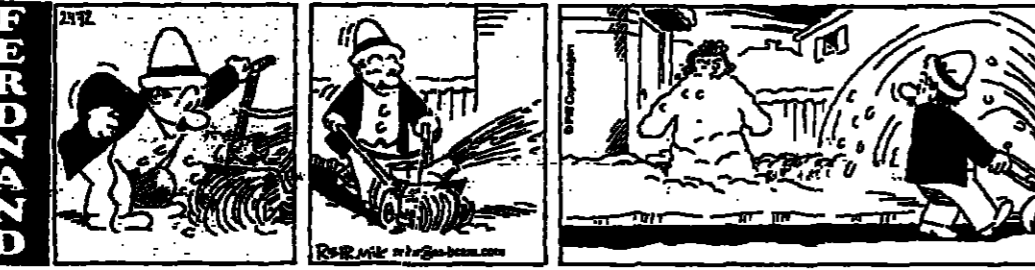
9:30 Ice Hockey: World Championship, Finland (pt)
10:00 Eurogoals
11:00 Wheelies
...
17:30 Good Evening

INTERNATIONAL

News throughout the day
6:30 World Report
7:30 Insight
...
17:30 Good Evening

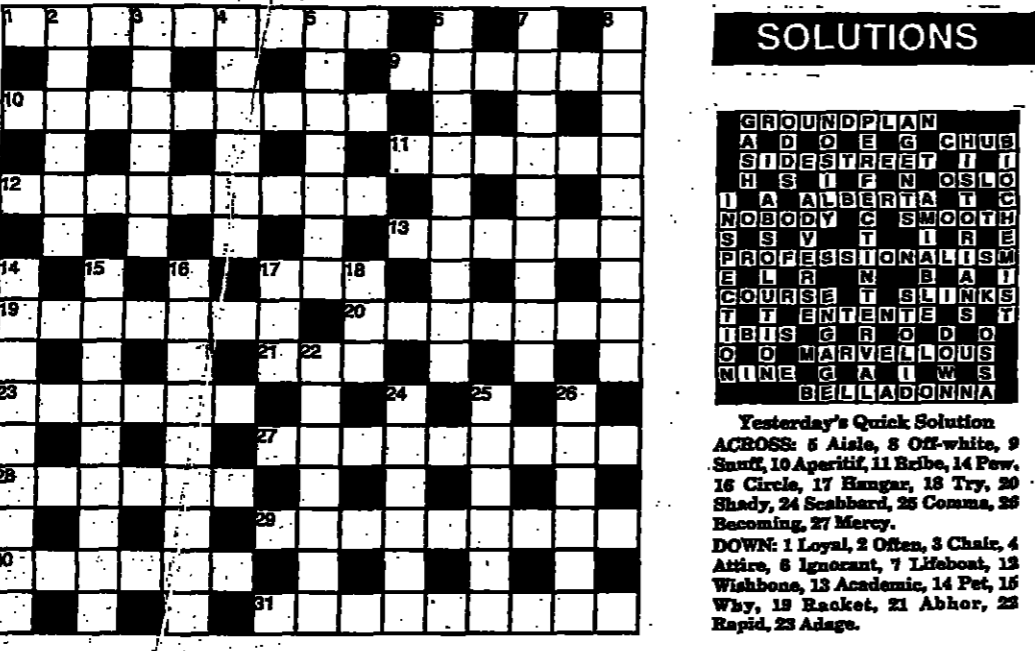
MOVIES

8, 10 • Dante's Peak 10:15 • 101 Dalmatians 5, 8 • Shave It or Lose It 7:15
HERZLIYA
HOLIDAY Michael 7:30, 10 COLONY
...
17:30 Good Evening



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 A person compelled to serve in a private capacity (9)
9 Protective clothing from Northern Ireland (6)
10 Place the monarch found for a paper-seller (9)
...
DOWN
2 Start public collection (6)
3 Ironic humour at being received by father (6)
...
SOLUTIONS
ACROSS
1 Spot (5)
4 Amuse (6)
...
DOWN
1 Security (6)
2 Register (5)
...
27 Retiree (5)



QUICK CROSSWORD
ACROSS
1 Spot (5)
4 Amuse (6)
9 Eschew (7)
10 Better (5)
11 Narrate (4)
12 Strips (7)
13 Link (3)
14 Release (4)
16 Large book (4)
18 Enemy (3)
20 Predicament (7)
21 Facts given (4)
24 Ingested (5)
25 Inquisitive (7)
26 Simply (6)
27 Retiree (5)
DOWN
1 Security (6)
2 Register (5)
3 Ardent (4)
5 Limestone (8)
6 Beam (7)
7 Way out (5)
8 Wear away (5)
13 Last (8)
15 Reckless (7)
17 Stick (6)
18 Ornate (5)
19 Dried fruit (6)
22 Scam (5)
23 Small stones (4)

French 44-8
...
17:30 Good Evening

Vertical text on the far left edge of the page, partially cut off.

NEWS

in brief

Panel trying to lighten pupils' load

There is good news for youngsters who struggle under the burden of heavy school bags. The Union of Local Authorities has announced plans to set up a panel to look into ways to lighten the youngsters' load.

The committee, which will include doctors, educators and local council heads, will try to find "the best and healthiest solution for these young pupils forced to carry such heavy loads," according to committee chairman Shmuel Abuav, who is also chairman of the union's education committee.

Meanwhile, the Education Ministry announced that all schools will operate as normal on May Day. *Aryeh Dean Cohen*

Robbers steal NIS 130,000 from McDonald's

Masked robbers reaped an end-of-Pessah jackpot yesterday morning - stealing an estimated NIS 130,000 from the McDonald's branch in the Hutzot Ha'Mifratz shopping mall in Haifa.

The restaurant had been packed the previous night with people wanting to bite into something more substantial than unleavened bread following the end of Pessah.

Haifa district spokesperson Superintendent Shlomit Minkovsky said two masked raiders held-up a woman worker who was alone in the restaurant early yesterday morning. She said they threatened the woman with the knife and forced her to open the safe and hand over the contents. They reportedly then bound her and fled from the scene on foot. *David Rudge*

Katsav appoints Arab affairs adviser

Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav, who also is the minister responsible for Arab affairs, yesterday appointed Motti Zakan as his adviser on Arab issues.

Zakan, who specializes in the study of Kurds and other minority groups in the Middle East, is a doctoral candidate in Hebrew University's Islamic and Middle East Studies department, in which he also teaches. *Tim*

New Sheikh Hussein Bridge opens today

The permanent Sheikh Hussein Bridge between Israel and Jordan opens to traffic today, replacing the narrow, temporary bridge that has been in use at the border crossing for two years.

The new bridge, located in the Beit She'an Valley near Kibbutz Maoz Haim, is 100 meters long and has one two-lane strip. It is part of Route 71, the Afula-Beit She'an-Amman road.

The bridge cost NIS 6.5 million, with associated road and lighting work costing an additional NIS 3.5m.

Jordan plans to build a similar bridge next to the Israeli one, to be financed by Japan.

Each bridge will act as a crossing point, facilitating the smooth flow of traffic between the two countries. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Tapuah Zahav, Mul Hayam best restaurants

According to the latest edition of the Israel edition of *Gaumiilaw*, the noted French restaurant guide, the two best local restaurants are Tapuah Zahav and Mul Hayam, both in Tel Aviv.

At both, a meal for two, including a bottle of table wine, is over NIS 500. In contrast to the 1996 edition, which appeared with both Hebrew and English texts, the 1997-98 edition is only in Hebrew. A spokesman for the publishers said that an English version is due in the future. *Haim Shapiro*

Ex-Japanese ministers visiting

Former Japanese prime minister Tomiichi Murayama arrived yesterday for a private visit, accompanied by previous foreign minister Yohel Kono and ex-finance minister Masayoshi Takemura. The three will meet Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, Labor Party leader Shimon Peres, Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, and Yuval Rabin. Diplomatic and economic relations between Tokyo and Jerusalem first blossomed when Murayama and Yitzhak Rabin were in power. *David Harris*

1 killed, 5 hurt on roads

A man was killed and his friend was seriously injured when their car overturned near Moshav Telamin in the Negev yesterday morning. The injured man was taken to Soroka Hospital in Beersheba.

In a second accident in the Negev, four people were lightly injured when two cars collided head-on at the entrance to the parking lot at Kibbutz Yovvata's restaurant. A car heading north began to turn left into the kibbutz from the Arava Highway, but suddenly changed directions and turned right into the restaurant parking lot and crashed into a car heading south. A kibbutz ambulance took the two injured to Josephthal Hospital in Eilat. *(Tim)*



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu shakes hands at Mimouna celebrations yesterday at Jerusalem's Safra Square, where thousands gathered to mark the holiday - some more lightheartedly than others. (Bria McBurney, Isaac Harari)

Music, food, politicians at Mimouna

By ELLI WOHLGELERTER

Mimouna took on a different flavor in Jerusalem this year. No meat.

Well, not exactly. The traditionalists still parked their grills in Sacher Park and smoked up the usual assortment of Moroccan delicacies, while vendors sold com-on-the-cob, cotton candy, and falafel as part of the festival to mark the end of Pessah.

But at the main event, in Safra Square at City Hall, it was music that was served up, and the thousands there seemed pretty content. The tunes were a bit of this and a bit of that, including singers and dancers from Tajikistan and Russia, some Moroccan songs, the banging of drums and tambourines, and plenty of Israeli stars singing Sephardi melodies.

Celebrations were held in parks and halls around the country, with celebrants of North African descent sharing their delicacies and music with well-wishers.

At Gan Hashlosha (Sakhne), police had to turn away visitors, as the park was totally filled with Mimouna celebrants. Those turned away were directed to celebrations at other locations. In Eilat, 20 kilograms of *mufleta*, a traditional pastry, was a major attraction at a celebration at the Laguna Hotel.

Everywhere, of course, there were politicians. In Jerusalem, they came mainly from the right, knowing a natural constituency when they see one. Mayor Ehud Olmert came through first to work the crowd, shaking hands, signing autographs, and caressing the faces of little children.

He was followed by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, who also waltzed through the masses, glad-handing everyone. Others included Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky, Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein, and Deputy Religious Affairs Minister Yigal Bibi.

The final show was Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, who arrived after first visiting Sacher Park. Heavy security prevented him from walking through the crowd, but he addressed them from the podium, while Likud youth held up signs saying "Bibi, the people are with you."

The premier said a book he was reading by non-Jewish tourists to Palestine, which includes a passage by Mark Twain, who described the desolation he saw north of Jerusalem.

"Today there are neighborhoods there around Jerusalem, like Givat Ze'ev, and other neighborhoods that we have built and are building, like in Har Homa. Today we are building a life for Arabs, as well as for ourselves."

At the end of his speech he approached the audience and began shaking hands, much to the chagrin of the security detail.

A Bucharan man sitting in the adjacent booth agreed, saying he doesn't believe it is an anti-Sephardi thing, but "I don't know if it's true, or if he's a liar, or if they're sticking it to him."

One bystander, a New York City teacher visiting for the year, said: "I think there is prejudice and discrimination here in the country. People here are hounded for their beliefs," but that it can be taken too far.

"It's like the in the States; as soon as someone is accused of something, they cry 'racism.'"

She said the investigation's aftermath is a particularly Israeli thing. "I think it's a little suspicious that after three months, they have an investigation and they don't have any hard proof. Now they're calling for another investigation. Where is it going to end?" *Tim contributed to this report*



Netanyahu was expected at an Iranian celebration at the National Park in Ramat Gan last night. Mordechai, National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, and Labor MK Ehud Barak were also expected.

With so many politicians around, it was hard - despite the party atmosphere - not to think of that symbol of Sephardi politics, Aryeh Deri. Many among the Jerusalem crowd were his followers.

"Many people love him, but they don't know all the facts," said Gavriel Ratzabi, sitting in the booth along the outside of the square displaying Yemenite food and objects. "They love him, and they believe what he says. But it's not a question of what he did. It's politics, and if they want to screw him, they'll take the smallest thing and make it so big."

WEATHER

Haifa 15-23	Tiberias 14-27
Afula 13-23	Samarita 17-24
Tel Aviv 15-23	Jerusalem 10-23
Beersheba 13-27	Dead Sea 13-22
Eilat 17-32	

Forecast: Partly cloudy, rise in temperatures.

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH			
	C	F			
Amsterdam	07	45	72	cloudy	
Berlin	10	50	17	cloudy	
Buenos Aires	11	52	26	clear	
Cardiff	08	48	25	partly cloudy	
Chicago	08	48	19	clear	
Copenhagen	07	45	19	cloudy	
Frankfurt	08	48	14	clear	
Geneva	08	48	14	cloudy	
Helsinki	07	45	29	clear	
Hong Kong	24	75	29	clear	
Jakarta	27	81	27	clear	
London	13	55	25	77	clear
Los Angeles	17	63	27	clear	
Madrid	12	54	27	81	clear
Moscow	07	45	13	56	clear
Montreal	07	45	15	59	clear
Mumbai	28	82	17	63	clear
New York	10	50	18	64	clear
Paris	07	45	18	64	cloudy
Rome	07	45	17	63	clear
Stockholm	05	41	27	81	clear
Sydney	14	57	26	79	clear
Tokyo	13	55	25	77	partly cloudy
Toronto	08	48	18	64	partly cloudy
Vancouver	08	48	12	54	rain
Zurich	08	48	12	54	rain

Winning cards

In yesterday's Chance draw, the lucky cards were the ace of spades, queen of hearts, jack of diamonds, and 10 of clubs.

Turkish defense minister arrives

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Turkish Defense Minister Turhan Tayan arrives today for an official three-day visit.

Tayan's visit comes following the February visit of the Turkish Chief of Staff, Gen. Ismail Karadayi and also amid a showdown in Turkey between the secular military and the Turkish government coalition led by the Islamic-backed Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan.

Tayan is to be greeted by his counterpart Yitzhak Mordechai this morning at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv. The two also are to hold a briefing session on the strategic relations between the two countries and the relative situation in the Middle East.

Since signing a defense cooperation agreement last year, representatives from both countries have periodically met to set the agenda of the pact. Such a meeting is set for next week. The commitment is expected to tighten strategic ties between Jerusalem and Ankara at a time when both are concerned about a growing threat from Iran.

Earlier this month, the Turkish Parliament ratified a pact expected to quadruple bilateral trade to \$2 billion by the year 2000.

Israel is currently upgrading over 50 F-4s as for Turkey, which has embarked on a rearmament program. Tayan and his delegation are slated to visit Israel Aircraft Industries to observe the upgrading.

Israel considers Tayan's visit an important sign that the military alliance signed last year with Turkey is on stable ground.

Still, Tayan, a lawyer and former education minister, is not considered to be as powerful as the military brass which has visited Israel. He and Mordechai became defense ministers around the same time.

Reports from Ankara say the Turkish government's days are numbered, despite efforts by Deputy Premier Tansu Ciller to assume the reins from Erbakan as part of an accelerated rotation agreement. The Turkish military also is pressuring the government to shut down Islamic-oriented schools and to enforce the ban on Islamic-style clothing.

Levy, Mordechai warn Syria over nerve gas

By DAVID RUDGE and MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Israel is closely monitoring developments in Syria in light of reports that Damascus, with the aid of Russian experts, has succeeded in manufacturing a particularly deadly form of nerve gas known as VX. Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and Foreign Minister David Levy both said yesterday.

According to reports, the Syrians are now in the first stages of putting VX into warheads for its Scud missiles.

Mordechai warned against anybody provoking Israel and once again urged the Syrians to resolve problems around the negotiating table.

He spoke to reporters during a visit to Mimouna celebrations in Kiryat Shmona.

Mordechai said he had emphasized Syria's efforts to produce "advanced weapons in various fields" six months ago and had raised the issue here and abroad, including in talks with the defense ministers of the US and Britain.

"We are closely monitoring these matters and we have all the capabilities, if God forbid this should prove necessary," he said. "I reiterate, however, that we want to talk with the Syrians. We want to find a formula for a solution. We have no intention of confrontation."

Levy noted that Israel has the means to deter any enemy "in ways beyond anything the other side can imagine."

He noted however that it is preferable to advance toward peace by realistic negotiations, something Syria is still refusing to do, rather than scare tactics.

He said that "Israel is following this and other developments, and has the ways and means to deter any enemy."

Levy expressed fervent hope that "in addition to this insane race, there is also a brain thinking what he should and what he shouldn't do. We are developing deterrence means, so that the other side understands it is not the only one which has control of such a severe thing, and that we too control things seven times worse."

S. Koreans here to study immigrant absorption

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

The highest-ranking and largest South Korean delegation ever to visit here has arrived for a three-day visit to study how Israel absorbs its immigrants, in anticipation of the expected eventual unification of South and North Korea. Korean officials believe this will lead to mass migration from the north to the south.

The 12-member delegation includes nine directors-general of South Korean government ministries, and representatives from the presidential palace, the Interior, Foreign, Defense, Education, and other ministries.

The Koreans will be given a seminar on immigrant integration today, with Absorption, Finance, and Housing ministry officials.

Among those scheduled to address the visitors is Arnon Mantver, director-general of the Joint Distribution Committee,

Israel, who will brief them on Operation Solomon when 15,000 immigrants arrived in 36 hours.

"They are particularly interested in the area of employment," Absorption Ministry spokesman Yehuda Glick said, "since they expect refugees to arrive without skills."

Joan Peters provides demographic and historical perspectives on the origins of the Arab-Jewish conflict over Palestine, and gives abundant justification for reversing the moral and legal presumptions that have led to Israel being cast as defendant before the court of world opinion. Softcover, 601 pp. JP Price NIS 65.00

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